

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicants' present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed December 28, 2007. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-17 and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,855,735 ("Webb") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,543,657 ("Wilkinson"). Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Webb in view of Wilkinson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,409 ("Nozuyama"). In light of the amendment submitted herewith, Applicant submits that the rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

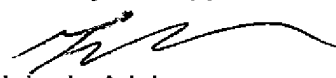
Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-5, 8-17 and 18-23. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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